



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & WELFARE

DIRK KEMPTHORNE – Governor
KARL B. KURTZ – Director

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
450 West State Street, 10th Floor
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0036
PHONE 208-334-5625
FAX 208-334-5926

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 3, 2004

Tom Shanahan
(208) 334-0668

PAIR SENTENCED FOR WELFARE FRAUD

A Garden City man will serve six months in the Ada County Jail for fraudulently receiving more than \$22,000 in child care and Food Stamp benefits. David Allen, 37, pleaded guilty for fraudulent procurement of public assistance. He also must repay the full amount of benefits he illegally received. Allen's girlfriend, Lisa Carter, 30, pleaded guilty to felony accessory in the fraud scheme and must perform 200 hours of community service.

In 2002, Allen provided false information to the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare in an application to become an Idaho Child Care Program provider. Allen illegally received child care payments for watching Carter's seven children, two of which are his. It is against the law for parents to receive state child care payments for caring for their own children in their home.

Fourth District Judge Deborah Bail recognized Carter's role in the deception and said evidence proved the couple deliberately committed fraud. She chastised them for taking money from the Department of Health and Welfare, which has a limited amount of money available to help people who really need assistance.

Allen received a seven year suspended sentence, but must serve six months in the Ada County jail. He will be granted work release to provide for his family. Allen also cannot apply for public assistance and must receive anger management and drug counseling. Carter received a five years suspended sentence, but in lieu of jail will provide community service. Judge Bail said, however, if she does not follow through with 200 hours of community service, she will be incarcerated, too.

(more)

Mond Warren, who heads the Bureau of Audits and Investigations for the Department of Health and Welfare, says public assistance money is for people who need a helping hand. "In these tough budget times, fraud takes assistance away from people and families who really need help," he says. "As you can see from this case, we are going to actively prosecute people who illegally receive public assistance and defraud our state and taxpayers. If you know someone who is illegally receiving public assistance, please call our toll-free fraud hotline at 1-866-635-7515."

###

(Editors: For more information, please contact Health and Welfare Public Information Officer Tom Shanahan, at 334-0668.)